

Be Steadfast
I Corinthians 15:58

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“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (I Corinthians 15:58).

Once again we have a verse starting with “therefore,” so we've got to look to see what it is there for. Here it is obvious, because there is a hereafter, an eternity of which we are a part. Anything that we do in the name and for the cause of Christ cannot be in vain. It will count for all the ages to come. Our daily and ultimate victory is in Jesus Christ.

So this chapter which is filled with deep theological thoughts and truths, sublime logic, and masterful eloquence, closes with a very practical, every day challenge to keep on keeping on. The Bible never makes a separation between keeping our eyes on the life that now is and the life that is to come.

Just what is the exhortation? It is three fold. First, that we should be committed and firm in the faith of the gospel and the resurrection of Christ. Because He lives, we shall live also.

Second, that we should be unmovable in our hope and expectation in Christ. Our hope is a solid hope, built on the sure foundation of the promise of God who cannot lie. This hope will see us through the pressures of life, which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast.

Third, we are to abound in the work of the Lord. To keep active in the work of Christ requires constant growth in love, obedience and holiness. We cannot continue to bear fruit upward if we neglect to take root downward. It is the people who know their God who will be strong and do exploits.

Now this does not mean that all our expectations will be realized and that all of our hopes and dreams fulfilled. You and I have read of missionaries who went to a foreign land, labored tirelessly in that ministry of the Gospel, and saw little fruit for their labor.

We know of moms and dads who went to their graves with a son or daughter still walking the way of the world. We know of honest, godly, dedicated people who have suffered much. But we know the reward of Christ is sure.

When He greets you in heaven with “well done, thou good and faithful servant,” it will be worth it all. “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have shown toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister” (Hebrews 6:10).

If we serve Him here on earth, we shall reign with Him in heaven. “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18).

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